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L4: Entry 1 of 3179

File: USPT

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6426180 B1

TITLE: Color photographic element containing speed improving compound in combination with electron transfer agent releasing compound

Brief Summary Text (49):

The speed compounds useful in the invention can be added to a gel pre-melt or a mixture containing silver halide before coating or, more suitably, be mixed with the silver halide just prior to or during coating. In either case, additional components like couplers, doctors, surfactants, hardeners and other materials that are typically present in such solutions may also be present at the same time. The speed compounds useful in the invention are not water-soluble and cannot be added directly to the solution. They may be added directly if dissolved in an organic water miscible solution such as methanol, acetone or the like or more preferably as a dispersion. A dispersion incorporates the speed compounds in a stable, finely divided state in a hydrophobic organic solvent (often referred to as a coupler solvent or permanent solvent) that is stabilized by suitable surfactants and surface active agents usually in combination with a binder or matrix such as gelatin. The dispersion may contain one or more permanent solvents that dissolve the compound and maintain it in a liquid state. Some examples of suitable permanent solvents are tricresylphosphate, N,N-diethylauramide, N,N-dibutylauramide, p-dodecylphenol, dibutylphthalate, di-n-butyl sebacate, N-n-butylacetanilide, 9-octadecen-1-ol, ortho-methylphenyl benzoate, trioctylamine and 2-ethylhexylphosphate. Permanent solvents can also be described in terms of physical constants such as alpha, beta and pi* as defined by M. J. Kamlet, J-L. M. Abboud, M. H. Abraham and R. W. Taft, J. Org Chem, 48, 2877(1983). The preferred permanent solvents used with the speed compounds are those with C log P of 5.0 or greater and beta values of 0.4 or greater or more preferably, beta values of 0.5 or greater. Useful classes of solvents are carbonamides, phosphates, alcohols and esters. When a solvent is present, it is typical that the weight ratio of compound to solvent be at least 1 to 0.5, or most preferably, at least 1 to 1. The dispersion may require an auxiliary coupler solvent initially to dissolve the component but this is removed afterwards, usually either by evaporation or by washing with additional water. Some examples of suitable auxiliary coupler solvents are ethyl acetate, cyclohexanone and 2-(2-butoxyethoxy)ethyl acetate. The dispersion may also be stabilized by addition of polymeric materials to form stable latexes. Examples of suitable polymers for this use generally contain water-solubilizing groups or have regions of high hydrophilicity. Some examples of suitable dispersing agents or surfactants are Alkanol XC or saponin. The speed compounds may also be dispersed as an admixture with another component of the system such as a coupler or an oxidized developer scavenger so that both are present in the same oil droplet. It is also possible to incorporate the compounds useful in the invention as a solid particle dispersion; that is, a slurry or suspension of finely ground (through mechanical means) compound. These solid particle dispersions may be additionally stabilized with surfactants and/or polymeric materials as known in the art. Also, additional permanent solvent may be added to the solid particle dispersion to help increase activity.

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